

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 6, 7, 10, 13 and 37 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 8, 9 and 18 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for maintaining, in a system in which each of a plurality of client processes connected via an information transmission medium holds and uses shared data to be shared by the plurality of client processes, consistency of shared data held by the respective plurality of client processes, comprising:

in input step of inputting a manipulation request;

a determining step of determining a mode, based on designation information used to designate a mode to be adopted to each of a plurality of items included in the shared data, and manipulation contents of ~~corresponding to~~ the input manipulation request, from a plurality of modes including a first mode, ~~and~~ a second mode, and a third mode; and

a processing step of executing a process corresponding to the manipulation request in accordance with the mode determined in the determining step,

wherein the determining step determines that the mode corresponding to the manipulation request is the first mode or the second mode, when the manipulation contents of the manipulation request is based on a user's interactive manipulation,

wherein the processing step includes:

a sending step of sending, when the manipulation request requests a manipulation of the shared data, request information that represents the manipulation request to a server process;

a reception step of receiving response information corresponding to the request information sent in the sending step, from the server process; and

a manipulation execution step of executing a manipulation for the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request or the response information received in the reception step,

and wherein, in a case where the determining step determines that the mode corresponding to the manipulation request input in the input step is the first mode, the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data in response to the manipulation request and the sending step sends the request information indicating the manipulation request to the server process,

and wherein, in a case where the determining step determines that the mode corresponding to the manipulation request input in the input step is the second mode,

the sending step sends the request information indicating the manipulation request to the server process in response to the manipulation request, and

the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data based on the manipulation request indicated by the a reception information in response to reception of the reception information when the reception information is received from the server process within a time limit of manipulation execution, and

the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request corresponding to the request information when the reception information is not received from the server process within a time limit of manipulation execution,

and wherein, in a case where the determining step determines that the mode corresponding to the manipulation request input in the input step is the third mode,

the sending step sends, in accordance with the manipulation request, request information that represents the manipulation request to the server process, and

the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request corresponding to the request information in response to reception of the reception information.

Claims 2-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein the switching step includes further comprising a step of providing a user interface that allows a user to select an object display corresponding to a desired item and to designate a desired update mode.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein ~~an update a mode switching result in the switching step selected through the user interface is~~ reflected on the shared data of the plurality of client processes.

Claim 10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a setting step of setting the time limit of manipulation execution.

Claims 12-17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for maintaining, in a system in which each of a plurality of client processes connected via an information transmission medium holds and uses shared data to be shared by the plurality of client processes, consistency of shared data held by the respective plurality of client processes, comprising:

an input unit configured to input a manipulation request;

a determining unit configured to determine a mode, based on designation information used to designate a mode to be adopted to each of a plurality of items included in the shared data, and manipulation contents of corresponding to the input

manipulation request, from a plurality of modes including a first mode, and a second mode, and a third mode; and

a processing unit configured to execute a process corresponding to the manipulation request in accordance with the mode determined in the determining unit,

wherein the determining unit determines that the mode corresponding to the manipulation request is the first mode or the second mode, when the manipulation contents of the manipulation request is based on a user's interactive manipulation,

wherein the processing unit includes:

a sending unit configured to, when the manipulation request requests a manipulation of the shared data, send request information that represents the manipulation request to a server process;

a reception unit configured to receive response information corresponding to the request information sent by said sending unit, from the server process; and

a manipulation execution unit configured to execute a manipulation for the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request or the response information received in said reception unit,

and wherein, in a case where said determining unit determines that the mode corresponding to the manipulation request input by said input unit is the first mode, said manipulation execution unit manipulates the shared data in response to the manipulation request and said sending unit sends the request information indicating the manipulation request to the server process,

and wherein, in a case where said determining unit determines that the mode corresponding to the manipulation request input by said input unit is the second mode,

said sending unit sends the request information indicating the manipulation request to the server process in response to the manipulation request, and

said manipulation execution unit manipulates the shared data based on the manipulation request indicated by the a reception information in response to reception of the reception information when the reception information is received from the server process within a time limit of manipulation execution, and

said manipulation execution unit manipulates the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request corresponding to the request information when the reception information is not received from the server process within a time limit of manipulation execution,

and wherein, in a case where said determining unit determines that the mode corresponding to the manipulation request input in the input step is the third mode,

said sending unit sends, in accordance with the manipulation request, request information that represents the manipulation request to the server process, and

said manipulation execution unit manipulates the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request corresponding to the request information in response to reception of the reception information.

Claims 19-35. (Cancelled).

36. (Previously Presented) A storage medium storing a control program for making a computer execute the information processing method of claim 1.

Claim 37. (Cancelled).